

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2549

UNCLAS BANGKOK 6093

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: NARCOTICS PROGRAM

PASS S/NM, EA

REF: STATE 075395

1. MISSION UNAWARE OF TERMINATED PROJECT TITLED "HILLTRIBE RESEARCH (FOOD)". HOWEVER, PRESUME REFTTEL IS REFERRING TO HILLTRIBE PRESERVED FOOD PROJECT (493-11-590-248) WHICH PROVIDED FY 73 - 74 FUNDS (\$45,000) FOR EQUIPMENT FOR ONE SMALL PILOT CANNING PLANT. THIS PROJECT TERMINATED IN FY 74 BUT THE ACTIVITY WAS INCORPORATED IN THE NARCOTICS HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SUB PROJECT C: PRESERVED FOOD (493-11-190-241), WHICH WAS OUTLINED IN THE NCAP SUBMISSION.

PROJECT TITLE: NARCOTICS HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT - PRESERVED FOOD

PROJECT TARGET/COURSE OF ACTION:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT IS TO DEVELOP OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME FOR HILLTRIBE FARMERS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL CANNING FACTORIES THUS BROADENING THE MARKET FOR ALTERNATIVE CASH CROPS THEREBY REDUCING THE ECONOMIC
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DEPENDENCE ON OPIUM.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

EQUIPMENT PROCURED UNDER HILLTRIBE PRESERVED FOOD PROJECT (FY 73) ARRIVED IN COUNTRY DECEMBER 1974 AND HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN FACTORY IN MAE CHAN, CHIANG RAI PROVINCE. EQUIPMENT FOR ONE ADDITIONAL FACTORY PROCURED UNDER THE HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT PRESERVED FOOD SUB-PROJECT (FY 74) IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN COUNTRY MAY 1975 AND WILL BE INSTALLED IN A FACTORY IN MAE RIM, CHIANG MAI PROVINCE. EQUIPMENT FOR A THIRD CANNING FACTORY HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR PROCUREMENT IN FY 76 DEPENDING ON PERFORMANCE OF THE FIRST TWO PROCURED IN FY 73 - 74. DECISION WILL BE MADE AT END 3RD QUARTER FY 76 FOLLOWING EVALUATION OF OPERATION, ESPECIALLY "BUSINESS" ASPECTS. FYI, FIVE PILOT CANNING FACTORIES WERE INCLUDED IN THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL IN SUPPORT OF THIS KING'S HILLTRIBE PROJECT.

2. THE INTERDICTION ROADS PROJECT (A AND B) AS OUTLINED IN THE NCAP SUBMISSION PROPOSED FY 1975 OBLIGATION TO ACCELERATE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE KEY INTERDICTION ROADS. HOWEVER, DEVELOPMENT OF THESE PROJECTS HAS TAKEN MORE TIME THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS HAVE ESCALATED MEASURABLY. WE NOW EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO REACH A DECISION ON PROPOSED FUNDING LATE IN FY 1975, AND IF WE DECIDE TO PROCEED WE WOULD SPLIT THE FUNDING BETWEEN FY 57 AND 76.

A. PROJECT TITLE: INTERDICTION ROADS, SUB PROJECT A
NATIONAL SECURITY COMMAND (NSC)
PROJECT TARGET/COURSE OF ACTION:

THIS ROAD IN NORTHERN CHIANG MAI PROVINCE RUNS WESTWARD FROM BAN MUANG NA TAI THROUGH BAN KAE NOI TO BAN CHONG TOTALLI QO BOATB47 KMZJ THE NSC SURVEY, UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT NO. AID-493-094-T, WAS DELAYED SINCE THE START AND FINAL DESIGN IS NOW NOT EXPECTED UNTIL SOMETIME IN MAY. DESIGN ON THE MUANG NA TAI - KAE NOI SEGMENT (15 KMS) IS PROCEEDING AND JOINT RTG USG FUNDING OF THIS SEGMENT MAY UNCLASSIFIED

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BE AGREED ON DURING FY 75. AGREEMENT ON THE REMAINDER (32 KMS) WOULD BE SUBJECT TO DECISION LATER WHEN FINAL DESIGN AND RTG CONTRIBUTION ARE KNOWN.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

NSC SURVEY FIELD WORK NEARLY COMPLETED AND THE ROAD DESIGN IS TO START THIS MONTH. SINCE ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS

HAVE INCREASED APPRECIABLY, AN UNVERIFIED ROUGH ESTIMATE OF \$250,000 INCLUDED IN NCAP SUBMISSION TO \$925,000 (STILL UNVERIFIED UNTIL COMPLETION OF FINAL DESIGN) RTG/USG WILL NEED TO REEXAMINE IF/WHEN THE ROAD SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED AND WHETHER TO USE EXISTING NSC CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS OR TO MOBILIZE A CONTRACTOR. IN EITHER CASE, USG WOULD AT MOST PROPOSE TO SHARE APPROVED CONSTRUCTION COSTS WITH RTG, POSSIBLY ON FIXED AMOUNT REIMBURSEMENT BASIS.

B. PROJECT TITLE: INTERDICTION ROADS, SUB PROJECT B

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MOI)

PROJECT TARGET/COURSE OF ACTION:

ACCELERATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ARD) ROAD NO. CM 1003 IN CHIANG MAI PROVINCE RUNS WEST FROM BAN MAE CHA THROUGH BAN SAM TAO TO BAN MUANG HAENG AND THEN NORTH TO BAN PIANG LUANG. THESE THREE SEGMENTS TOTAL ABOUT 69 KMS.

- 1) BAN MAE CHA - BAN SAM TAO 40 KMS. APPROX.
- 2) BAN SAM TAO - BAN MUANG HAENG 15 KMS. APPROX.
- 3) BAN MUANG HAENG - BAN PIANG LUANG 14 KMS. APPROX.

ARD SURVEY HAS BEEN COMPLETED BUT IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO SELECT ANOTHER ALIGNMENT FOR SECTION 2, BECAUSE OF THE EXCEPTIONALLY DIFFICULT TERRAIN. SECTION 1 AND 3 WILL CONTINUE ON EXISTING ROAD ALILWMENTS. SECTION 2 IS THE MOST DIFFICULT TECHNICALLY AND IS NOT PASSABLE BY MOTORIZED VEHICLES. FINAL DESIGN NOT EXPECTED UNTIL EARLY FY 1976. CURRENT CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATES, SUBJECT TO FINAL DESIGN, ESTIMATED AT \$275,000 FOR SECTION 1, \$400,000 FOR SECTION 2 AND UNCLASSIFIED

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\$140,000 FOR SECTION 3. RTG AND USG SHARES OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS AND METHOD OF FINANCING TO BE DISCUSSED IN FINAL PP.

THAI HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT (THD)/ARD BAN MAE MALAI
(CHIANG MAI - MAE HONG SON ROAD

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ROAD IS DIVIDED INTO:
ARD - BAN MAE MALAI - AMPHOE PAI 108 KMS. APPROX.
THD - MAE HONG SON - AMPHOE PAI 92 KMS. APPROX.
IN OUR JUDGMENT THIS PROJECT IS FAR TOO LARGE TO CONSIDER FOR CONSTRUCTION WITH NARCOTICS FUNDING. HOWEVER WE PROPOSE TO SHARE WITH THE RTG THE COST OF EVALUATING EXISTING SURVEYS, RESURVEYING TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY AND DESIGNING THE ROAD TO THD

PROVINCE TO PROVINCE ROAD STANDARDS. AS A PART OF THE DESIGN, PARTICULAR ATTENTION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE SECTIONS OF THE ROAD WHICH BECOME IMPASSABLE DURING THE RAINY SEASON. THE FINAL DESIGN AND ESTIMATES WOULD ENABLE THE RTG TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION ON THEIR OWN AND/OR OTHER DONORS.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

ARD ROAD NO. CM 1003

THE FIRST 10 KM OF SECTION 1 COMPLETED BUT MAY REQUIRE IMPROVED DRAINAGE IN CERTAIN SPOTS. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH ARD ON SUPPORT TO ACCELERATE CONSTRUCTION.

THD/ARD BAN MAE MALAI - MAE HONG SON ROAD

ARD HAS CONSTRUCTED ABOUT 40 KMS. BUT HAS RUN INTO CONTINUOUS DIFFICULTIES. THD HAS BEEN PROGRESSING AT A RATE OF 15 KM PER YEAR.

3. CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY TERMINATED PROJECT REFERS TO A RESEARCH PROJECT ENTITLED "A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE PROBLEM IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND RELATED ISSUES IN THAILAND" UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. SERIN PUNNAHITANOND, ASST.
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PROFESSOR, DEPT. OF SOCIAL STUDIES, CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY AND DR. ALFRED R. LINDESMITH, PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, INDIANA UNIVERSITY. TOTAL COST OF RESEARCH PROJECT \$30,000.

PROJECT TARGET/COURSE OF ACTION:

OBTAIN A BASIS FOR ESTIMATING THE OVERALL DEMENSIONS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM IN THE BANGKOK AREA AND IDENTIFY SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF PATTERNS OF NARCOTIC DRUG USAGE.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

STUDY COMPLETED IN JULY 1974 IN BOTH ENGLISH AND THAI LANGUAGE. IN EVENT NORMAL DISTRIBUTION DID NOT INCLUDE S/NM, USOM POUCHING TWO ADDITIONAL COPIES.
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